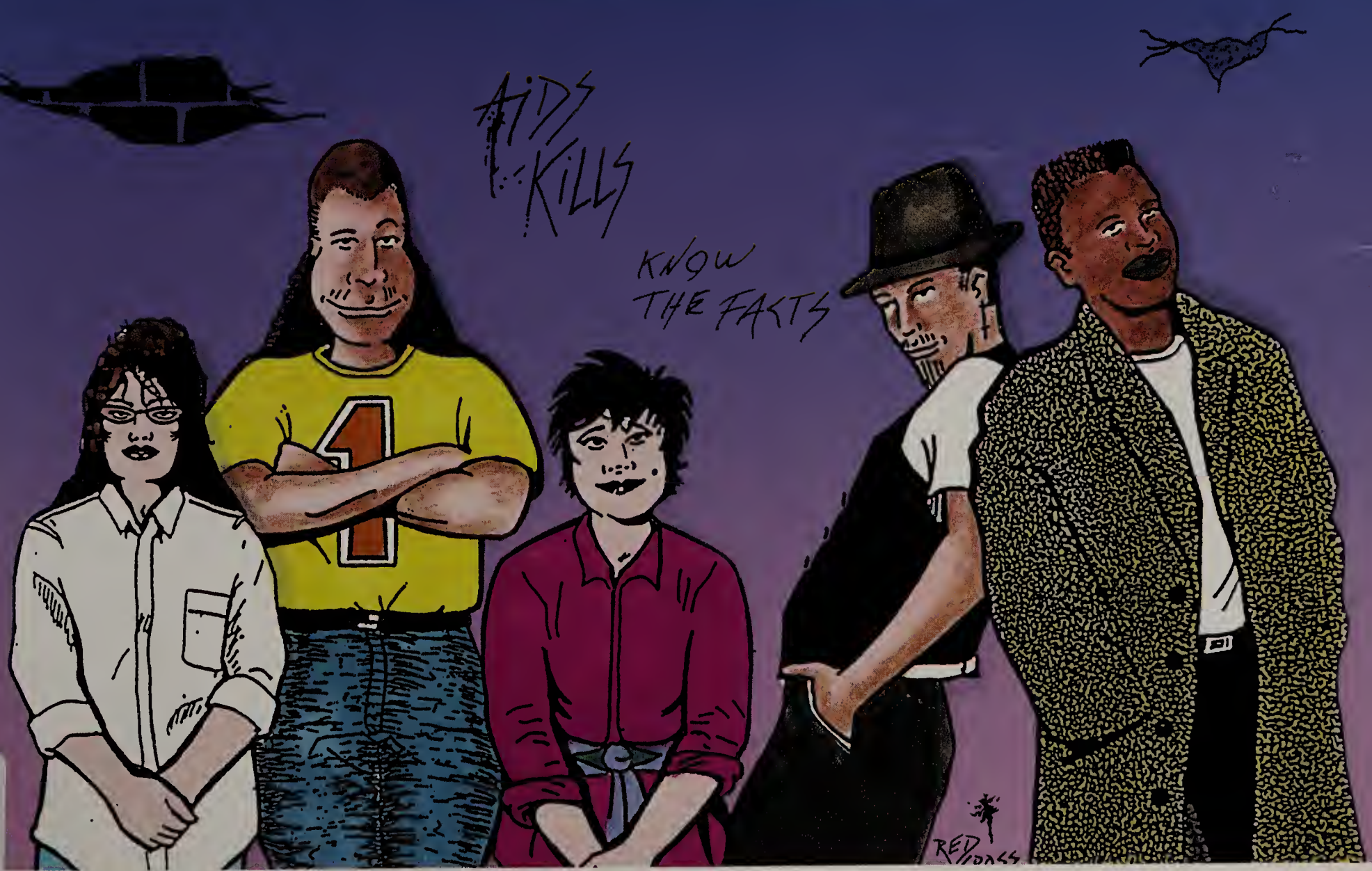
RISKY STUFF



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American Red Cross

Risky Stuff*

(*Based on a play by Carlos Morton, developed and produced with the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, Houston, Texas, 1989)

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Additional Information
Your local Red Cross chapter can provide you more copies of this comic book
Fotonovela "Mi Hermano"
Parent's Guide
(All available in Spanish and English)

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MH97D324

RISKY STUFF

Savage

Rosi

Hector

Raul

Viki

Juan

I tell you—
I heard the teachers talking about it.
Someone in school has AIDS!

Oh gross!

I remember it well. It was a hot day.
All my friends were skipping school and
hanging out in the playground.

ANY CITY, USA—DAY. A CONCRETE PLAYGROUND.

What does **AIDS** stand for anyway?

"Required Immunication Efficiency" something.

That's **"Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome"** It's caused by a virus called HIV.

I heard it's really easy to get it.

Nah, only gays get it.

It's a HEAVY-SEXUAL disease.

EXCUSE ME, you mean HETEROSEXUAL? As in sexual contact with members of the opposite sex?

Okay, Viki, we know you're smart. Look man, everybody knows only gays get it.

That's not true. You don't know nothing.

I know you can get it from swimming in pools or sitting on toilet seats.

There are cases of people getting it from mosquito bites.

NO YOU CAN'T! NOT THAT WAY!

No way! Mosquitoes can give you malaria, not the virus that causes **AIDS**.

I know who has it.

Whooooo?

That guy who works in the cafeteria.

Juan? But he's such a nice guy.

No, he's such a SWEET guy.

What makes you think Juan is gay anyway?

Come on, man, are you blind? He wears a hairnet!

It's the WAY he wears his hairnet!

Everybody who works in the cafeteria wears a hairnet.

Raul, you're so dumb you can't tell the difference between a rooster and a hen. I'll tell you one thing, he sure knows how to make good tacos.

I bet you can get AIDS through food prepared by an infected person!

No you can't!

I'm sure glad I'm a female AIDS is something only men get.

UH, UH, girl. It's our problem too. More and more women are getting infected with HIV and they are passing it on to their babies.

Say, weren't you supposed to go to the doctor today?

YEAH! Planned Parenthood— they want to see me about something.

You be careful. Anyways, how are things between you and Raul?

He says he wants to get married.

Forget it! What's he going to do for a living—fry chicken?

I found out he was at the mall last weekend with Suzy.

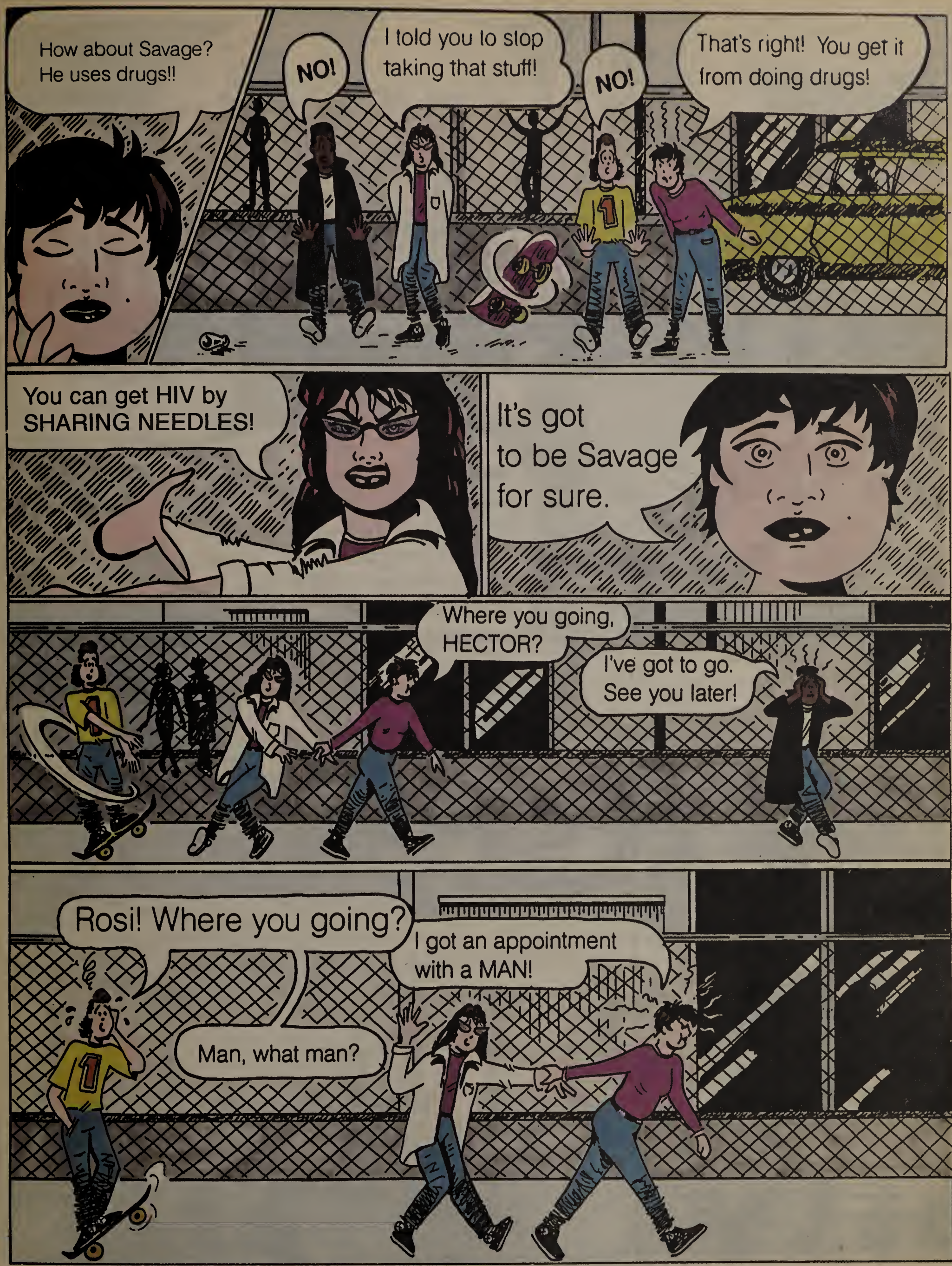
THAT SLUT! I can't stand it when guys get on their macho trips. Héctor and I just go out and have fun.

GAAAA, if I went out on Raul, he'd kill me and the guy!

Meanwhile, Raúl shows off how little he knows about HIV and AIDS . . .

Yeah, well, it's easy to tell. I've seen it on the TV First they start to get real skinny. Then they get pimples all over their body. Their hair starts falling out. Their eyes get crossed. Then their nose starts twitching back and forth like this! Look at their eyes. If they're cross-eyed, it's a sure sign they got AIDS!

Do you know who that sounds like? Like you, dummy!


How about Savage? He uses drugs!!
NO!
I told you to stop taking that stuff!
NO!
That's right! You get it from doing drugs!
You can get HIV by SHARING NEEDLES!
It's got to be Savage for sure.
Where you going, HECTOR?
I've got to go. See you later!
Rosi! Where you going?
I got an appointment with a MAN!
Man, what man?

On the other side of the barrio, Savage is thinking . . .

Yeah, that's why they call me Savage.. I was once clean. But then I got hooked on drugs. I was always getting high. Anyway, I remember that fool Hector came to talk some trash to me.

What's happening, hermano?

SAVAGE, I gotta ask you a question, MAAAN.

Shoooot! Get it, "shoot!"

I'm serious, man.

"Dead" serious?

Have you noticed anything funny "down there"?

Down where, man?

Down there, man.

Like in my shoes, man?

No, man, like in your personal areas, man.

Yeah, maaan, I notice something down there in my personal areas, man. Like I notice that my feet stink because I don't change my SOCKS!

Oh that! Yeah, man. I got problems with my private parts. They don't work none too good.
Then you do have it!
WHAT?
STOP IT LOCOOO! If YOU got it then maybe—OH, MAN, that's heavy. How much time do you have?
Time? I don't know. I ain't got a watch.
NO, how much time before the AIDS gets you?
AIDS? Whatcha talking about, AIDS?
Do you think I'm stupid? I disinfect my works in bleach. I don't share needles with no junkies.
Look maaan, people are saying you have AIDS because you share needles with drug addicts.
I'm sorry, man. They said you had AIDS.
I got enough problems without having to worry about AIDS, man.
You know I care about you, homes. You're my homeboy. We go back a long time.
Yeah, and that's why I don't want you hanging with me anymore. The crowd I run with is crazy.
I know you're trying to quit.
Yeah, I quit in the morning and start up in the afternoon. But I ain't got no AIDS, maaaan.
I'm glad. See you later— I got to get to school.
You got a class?
No, lunch. Sometime that's all I eat all day.

Crazy, huh? HIV was killing people right and left and most of us didn't even know how you got it.

I just lost my appetite.

What's the matter?

There's that guy, what's his name.

JUAN? Raul, don't start anything.

This is ridiculous, man. They shouldn't even let him in school— plus he's handling food.

How gross!

WELL, LATER ON THE ACTION SHIFTED OVER THE CAFETERIA.

Can you imagine that stuff in your burrito! HEY MAN, I'm calling you out! That's some nasty stuff you're dishing out.

You talking to me?

Yeah, I'm talking to you. I say you deserve what you got!

What I got?

The gay disease! I think you got a curse from God and that people like you got it from messing around with sheep!

You are so crass and distorted as to be ludicrous!

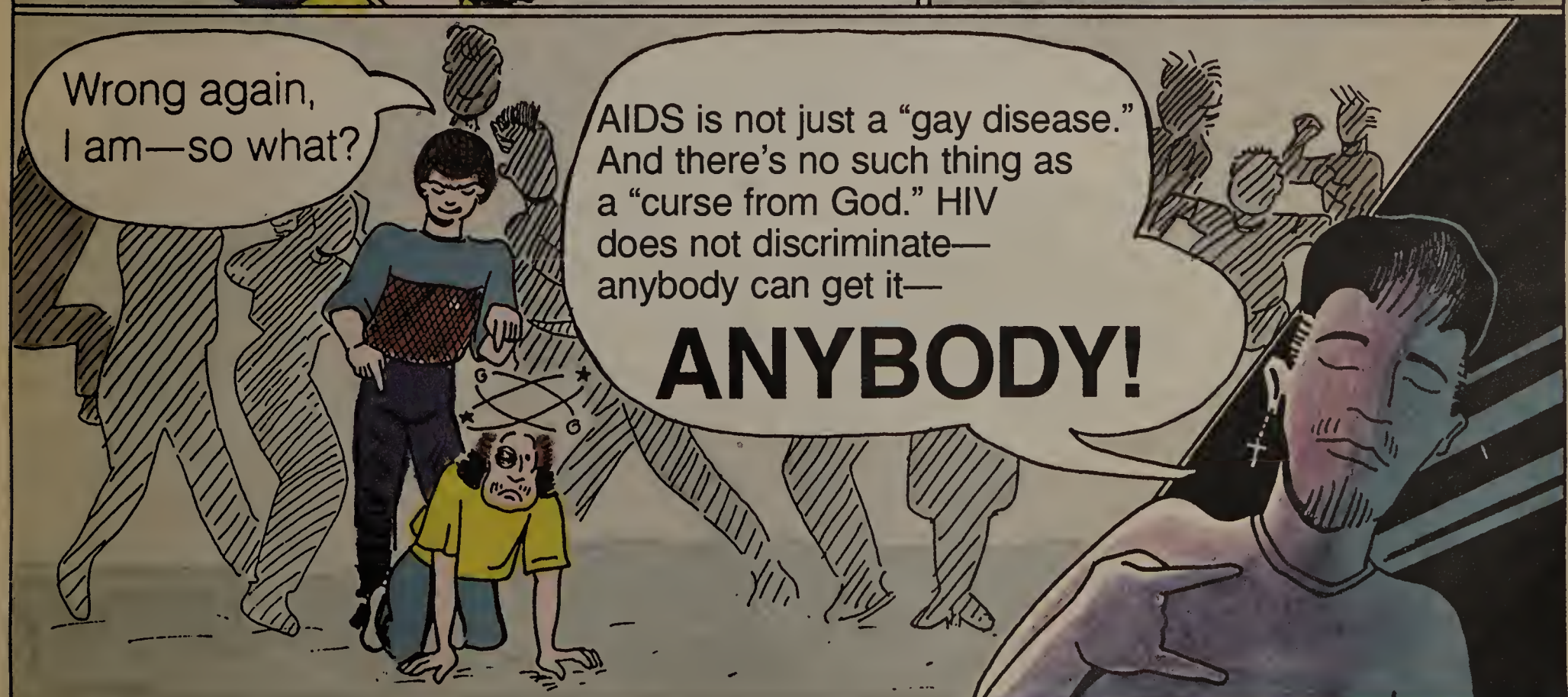
Hey, speak English, man! We're in America!

Come on, FIGHT! PUNK!
If you persist in this bellicose action I shall be forced to respond in kind!

RAUL! STOP IT!
Leave him alone. He gets into a fist fight at least once a week. Says it makes him feel like a man.

You know, I think Juan is some kind of karate expert.
Gooood. Maybe Raul will learn SOMETHING!

Okay. You're not a fag after all.


Wrong again, I am—so what?
AIDS is not just a "gay disease." And there's no such thing as a "curse from God." HIV does not discriminate— anybody can get it—
ANYBODY!

Another scar for your collection! When are you going to settle down and learn not to pick fights with people?

I hope he don't have AIDS, I bled all over him!

You can't get HIV from bleeding on someone— unless you both have OPEN WOUNDS.

You're right, I gotta settle down. We're going to graduate next month. I gotta get a job!

Yeah, maybe you can be a brain surgeon or SOMETHING.

Hey, I can be anything I want— an astronaut!

Well, you're already in outer space.

Seriously, though. Don't you think it's about time we got our own apartment?

Who's going to pay the rent?

Big stereo. TV. Refrig full of cold beer, king-sized water bed. We don't even have to get married—just live together.
WITH NO RESPONSIBILITIES OR COMMITMENTS!
Why do you want to live with me anyway?
Because I love you, I love you a lot.
But don't you want to go out with your friends and "have fun"?
I can still do that.
Not if you're living with me! Look Raul, we both have a lot of things to do. I want to go to college.
No problem— I'll pay your way through.
You would do that for me? That's nice.
What were you doing at the mall last weekend with SUZY PENDERGRASS?
WHOOOO?

SUZY PENDERGRASS! #@&%*☆$!

Suzy . . . Suzy . . .

Oh, her!

The one who wears tight short skirts so she can show off her legs.

The one who hangs around the bars on Main Street.

You don't say.

Raul! I have been itching and feeling something funny down there!

Take a bath.

Every time I go to the bathroom IT BURNS!

Call the fire department.

Have you got some kind of SOCIAL DISEASE?

How could I, loca, I ain't even got a social worker!

Su-Su-Suzy!—I mean—Rosi! I swear—it was just a one-night stand!

You liar! You liar! *#%@☆%! You picked something up from her and gave it TO ME! Now I know what the doctor wants to see me about!

Let me goooo. I hate you. You want to live with me—no thanks.

Hey, how do I know it ain't you that's been fooling around!

YOU DON'T!

Rosi! I swear I'll never

Auuuuch ☆#@&$*!

do it again!

THAT'S WHEN THE PLOT BEGAN TO THICKEN, LIKE THEY SAY!

Juan didn't have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

But Rosi thought she caught something from Raúl that he got from Susi that she got from John that he got from Nelda.

They both went to the health center and took an HIV antibody test which came out negative.

That's when things started to fall apart for me.

I cooked up a hot shot of junk and **OVERDOSED!**

He was my best friend. We grew up together.

Don't worry ... He must have been like a brother to you.

HE WAS MORE THAN A BROTHER TO ME!

WHAT WAS HE?

MY LOVER! But that was before he got hooked on drugs. After that he stopped caring about anything or anybody.

I didn't know.

That's the way it goes SOMETIMES.

Hector, his behavior was high risk ... SO ARE YOU! And so am I because I SLEPT WITH YOU!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!

I didn't know it, Viki, I swear! What came down between you and me that night after the party just happened. I didn't know I was in any danger.

THERE'S NO CURE FOR THIS DISEASE.

DON'T YOU SEE—YOU CAN GET IT FROM SOMEONE YOU SLEPT WITH EIGHT YEARS AGO!

I know, but I didn't do it on purpose. I'm sorry I HURT YOU!

YEAH, RIGHT!

Well, later Raul and Rosi stormed into the clinic.

I'm telling you it's over between us, GOODBYE, ADIOS!

You're crazy, you need me now more than ever.

CLI NIC

Shhh!

I don't care, I'll make it on my own. I'm serious, I never want to see you again.

But you're going to have my baby! I'm the father!

Don't be so sure!

Don't say that!

A dog, a hamster, a worm, a flea— the lowest life form on earth can be a father!

...Outside Hector and Vicky were discussing **the risks**...

This ought to teach us all a lesson.

How's that?

Every one of us is at RISK.

As for Savage, drugs did not kill him, however ...

Guess what? I survived the overdose. I even got into a good drug rehabilitation program.

Rosi and Raúl got married and had little Rosi Jr. Raúl drives a truck and Rosi attends night school.

Viki is working as a legal aide for a law firm. Next fall she plans to enroll in law school.

As for Héctor? He went out to California. Said he tried surfing for a while but he kept falling off the board. He lives in Los Angeles where he writes TV scripts for a production company.

Juan is still working at the cafeteria. Only he runs it now.

Savage didn't know he had the AIDS virus.
HE DIED ONE YEAR LATER

DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE I DID!
You may be carrying the AIDS virus and not even know it!
Every one of you is at risk if ...

RIP SAVAGE

... You have had many sex partners ...

... Male or female ...

... Or if your lover has had many sex partners ...

... If you use dirty needles and syringes contaminated **WITH BLOOD** ...

... Or if you have sex with someone who uses **DRUGS** ..

... If you have sex with a prostitute, male or female ...

TAQUERIA TITO

. . . A woman infected with HIV can pass it on to her unborn child . . .

. . . You can **NOT** get **HIV** from shaking hands, hugging, social kissing, crying, coughing, or sneezing . . .

. . . You can **NOT** get HIV from mosquitoes, animals, or swimming pools, or from toilets, doorknobs, or telephones . . .

. . . You can **NOT** get **HIV** from eating in restaurants even if the food handler has **AIDS** . . .

...You can **NOT** get **HIV** by donating **BLOOD**...

... The best way to protect yourself is not to do drugs or not to share needles, and as for sex, to use latex **CONDOMS** ...

...Girls who are sexually active should know about condoms too.
...OR, BETTER YET, JUST DON'T HAVE SEX AT ALL...
...Know your partner and be faithful to him or her...
... And if you decide to have sex, both you and your partner should be faithful to each other for the sake of LOVE AND SAFETY
. . . Remember, HIV infection is not just a "gay" disease . . .
... It affects all of us ...
... We are all at risk ...
... The biggest danger is ...
. . . IGNORANCE!
GINO/90 LA RAZA GRAPHICS
THE END

FIND THE WORDS

Read the questions and find the answer by unscrambling the words.
The words might be in any direction.

S	H	A	R	I	N	G	N	E
D	O	O	L	B	C	Z	O	G
A	R	T	S	E	X	G	N	N
M	L	H	I	V	Y	N	O	I
O	A	N	A	U	H	I	X	G
D	T	F	I	M	Q	S	Y	G
N	E	E	D	L	E	S	N	U
O	X	J	S	Q	D	I	O	H
C	B	A	B	Y	G	K	L	M

1. The virus that causes AIDS.
2. You DON'T get HIV by donating this.
3. HIV can be transmitted when sharing these.
4. You DON'T get HIV from its bites.
5. Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.
6. Condoms made of _____ help protect against HIV infection.
7. A pregnant woman can pass HIV to her _____.
8. Avoid getting HIV by NOT _____ needles.
9. HIV is NOT transmitted this way.
10. You also don't get HIV through _____.
11. Reduces the risk of getting HIV.
12. A sure way to avoid getting HIV is by NOT having _____.

ANSWERS: 1. HIV 2. BLOOD 3. NEEDLES 4. MOSQUITOES
5. AIDS 6. LATEX 7. BABY 8. SHARING 9. HUGGING
10. KISSING 11. CONDOM 12. SEX

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT AIDS?

Answer "True" or "False" to the questions below:

1) You can always tell if someone is infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. T F
2) Only certain people get AIDS. T F
3) You can NOT get HIV by donating blood. T F
4) You CAN get HIV from shaking hands. T F
5) You CAN get HIV from sharing needles. T F
6) A pregnant woman can pass HIV to her baby. T F
7) There is NO cure for HIV or AIDS. We must prevent it. T F

For more information about HIV and AIDS:

Your local Red Cross chapter can provide more copies of this comic book *Risky Stuff*
Family Guide *HIV/AIDS Prevention for the Family*
Fotonovela *Mi Hermano*

Your chapter can also give you names of local organizations
that can answer other questions about HIV and AIDS.

Or call the national AIDS hotline:
1-800-342-2437: English
1-800-344-7432: Spanish

ANSWERS: 1) F 2) F 3) T 4) F 5) T 6) T 7) T